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REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 2 March 2004 all pending claims 1, 25-27, 34, 50-53 and 55 were rejected. In this Reply, no claims are canceled, no claims are amended and no new claims are presented. Thus, all currently pending claims are pending examination on the merits. For the convenience of the Examiner the pending claims 1-36 are set forth hereinabove.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by a published patent application by Natarajan et al.; namely, publication number US2003/0013974 A1 ("Natarajan"). Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Natarajan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,365,426 to Siegel et al. ("Siegel") and claims 25-27 51-53 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Natarajan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,803,084 to Olson ("Olson"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

That is, on the basis of the declarations submitted herewith, the primary applied reference, Natarajan, has been antedated. Since Natarajan is not available as prior art against the presently pending claims, the grounds of rejection cannot stand and should be properly withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully assert that upon entry of the photocopied records that the prior art applied herein stands traversed and the pending claims should proceed to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully suggest that all presently pending claims 1-36 of the instant application are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully

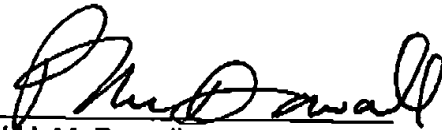
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request reconsideration and prompt allowance of said claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 13-2546. If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

2 Aug 04



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